

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209099

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SCHAUFLELE AND DUBS, ACTING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU

SUBJECT: SUDAN AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REF: JIDDA 5681

1. APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH HAS ALSO CONCERNED US. WHILE WE AGREE THAT RETURN OF KHARTOUM EIGHT TO SUDANESE CUSTODY WOULD INDEED BE A GOOD WAY FOR NIMEIRI TO PROVE HIS DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH U.S., IT APPEARS TO US IT IS NOT CURRENTLY REALISTIC TO PIN OUR EFFORTS ON SUCH AN APPROACH.

2. AS YOU WILL RECALL, REDUCTION OF SENTENCE TO SEVEN YEARS AND TRANSFER TO EGYPTIAN CUSTODY OF THE ASSASSINS WAS CARRIED OUT JUNE 24, 1974, WITH NO PRIOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND WITHOUT INFORMING EITHER US OR BELGIANS. DESPITE OUR
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VIGOROUS PROTESTS AND WARNINGS OF POSSIBLE DIRE EFFECTS ON

U.S./SUDANESE RELATIONS, SUDANESE DID NOT REVERSE THEIR DECISION. WE CONSEQUENTLY TERMINATED OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS IN SUDAN AND TOOK OTHER STEPS TO COOL OUR RELATIONSHIP. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW, USG DECIDED THIS SPRING THAT STANDDOWN HAD LASTED LONG ENOUGH AND THAT ITS PROLONGATION MIGHT SO SOUR ATMOSPHERE AS TO PERMANENTLY IMPAIR OUR ABILITY TO RESTORE GOOD RELATIONS.

3. WE WERE INFLUENCED IN OUR DECISION BY FORTHCOMING POLICIES ADOPTED BY SUDANESE GOVT, INCLUDING SUDANESE ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RELEASE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS HELD BY ERITREAN INSURGENCY MOVEMENT. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS OUR CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THAT OVERALL U.S. INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY WORKING WITH A MODERATE AND FRIENDLY SUDANESE REGIME WHICH HAS CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TO PLAY IN REGION OF NORTHEAST AFRICA. ALSO, AS YOU KNOW, TWO COUNTRIES CLOSEST TO CURRENT REGIME IN SUDAN ARE SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT, WITH WHOM, OF COURSE, WE ENJOY EXCELLENT RELATIONS. WE WELCOME SAUDI/EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE TIES AND VIEW THEM AS FAVORABLE TO OUR INTERESTS. THUS, WHILE DEPLORING NIMEIRI'S REPREHENSIBLE ACTION OF OVER TWO YEARS AGO, WE MUST NOT ALLOW IT TO AFFECT OUR LONGTERM INTERESTS.

4. IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC FOR US TO EXPECT THAT COURSE OF ACTION WHICH YOU PROPOSE IN PARA 2 REFTEL WOULD BEAR FRUIT AT THIS JUNCTURE, NOT BECAUSE OF LACK OF DESIRE ON NIMEIRI'S PART (ASSUMING HE HAS DESIRE), BUT BECAUSE OF CERTAIN UNFORTUNATE POLITICAL REALITIES. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE DROPPED THE MATTER. WE REMAIN MUCH CONCERNED THAT JUSTICE BE SERVED IN THIS CASE AND WILL BE ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO ENSURE THAT THIS BE DONE.

5. FYI, FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM PREPARED STATEMENT ON HORN AFFAIRS MADE ON AUG 6 BY SCHAUFLE TO SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

BEGIN QUOTE: OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SUDAN TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE IN JUNE, 1974, WHEN THE SUDANESE GOVT TURNED OVER TO EGYPT THE EIGHT PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS WHOM SUDANESE COURTS HAD CONVICTED OF KILLING IN 1973 OUR
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AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION IN KHARTOUM. AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS, DURING WHICH WE SUSPENDED MOST OF OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS WITH THE SUDAN, WE HAVE NOW EMBARKED ON A COURSE OF NORMALIZING OUR RELATIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE DELIBERATE COOLING OF OUR RELATIONSHIP HAD LASTED LONG ENOUGH AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE BROUGHT TO US BY THE SUDANESE GOVT IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS HELD BY THE ERITREAN INSURGENT MOVE-

MENT WHICH IS IN REBELLION AGAINST THE ETHIOPIAN GOVT. WE
CONSIDERED THAT FURTHER PROLONGATION OF THE STANDDOWN IN
OUR RELATIONS RISKED PERMANENTLY JEOPARDIZING OUR ABILITY
TO BUILD A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS COUNTRY
WHICH IS OF IMPORTANCE TO US IN BOTH THE AFRICAN AND MIDDLE
EAST CONTEXTS, AND WHICH HAS CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC

POTENTIAL. THE CONVICTED KILLERS ARE STILL IN EGYPTIAN
CUSTODY. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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